

Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
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USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 10480

USEEC
USNATO

E. O. 11652:GDS
TAGS: UK-EC
SUBJECT: US-EC POLITICAL COOPERATION DURING THE
BRITISH PRESIDENCY

1. FROM OUR PERSPECTIVE, US-EUROPEAN POLITICAL
CONSULTATION DURING THE BRITISH PRESIDENCY MET THE
MAJOR OBJECTIVE OF THE GYMnich ARRANGEMENT. THROUGH
DOZENS OF BRIEFINGS AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE, THE US
RECEIVED ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF PENDING EC DECISIONS IN
TIME FOR WASHINGTON TO REGISTER ITS VIEW. UK
ADMINISTRATION OF US-EC POLITICAL COOPERATION WAS
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SUPERB. UNLIKE THE AUTUMN OF 1973, THERE WERE NO
SIGNIFICANT SURPRISES SPRUNG ON THE US. THAT ACCOMPLISH
MENT REPRESENTS, WE BELIEVE, THE MOST PERSUASIVE
REASON TO KEEP INFORMATION FLOWING THROUGH THIS
PARTICULAR ATLANTIC PIPELINE. IT INSULATES US FROM
SHOCK.

2. HAVING SAID THIS, WE WOULD ALSO OBSERVE THAT WITH THE EXCEPTION OF CSCE AND, ON TWO OCCASIONS, THE MIDDLE EAST, NOTHING OF MUCH CONSEQUENCE PASSED EITHER WAY THROUGH THE CHANNEL. OUR CONSULTATIONS WITH THE NINE ON PREPARATIONS FOR THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE WERE FREQUENT AND PRODUCTIVE. AS IN THE PAST CSCE REMAINS THE OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF US-EC POLITICAL COOPERATION. FURTHER, AT THE BEGINNING AND THE END OF THE UK PRESIDENCY, THE NINE'S PROPOSED STATEMENT ON THE MIDDLE EAST WAS A SUBJECT OF SERIOUS US-EC EXCHANGE. MOST OF THE REST OF THE DIALOGUE WAS TRIVIAL.

3. THERE WERE THE SAME OLD REASONS FOR THIS. ON MANY ISSUES THE NINE TOGETHER WERE NOT A PARTICULARLY COHESIVE NOR RELIABLE GROUP WITH WHICH TO TALK, AND COULD DO LITTLE IF THEY WERE. A NEW US ADMINISTRATION CONFRONTED THE FAMILIAR PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH CONSULTING RATHER THAN INFORMING THE COMMUNITY ON ISSUES AT THE BONE OF US NATIONAL INTERESTS. AND, MOST IMPORTANT, TRANSATLANTIC POLITICAL DISCUSSIONS WERE INTENSIVELY CARRIED ON BY OTHER VOICES IN OTHER ROOMS--DURING THE DOWNING STREET SUMMIT, AT THE QUADRIPARTITE SUMMIT, THE NATO SUMMIT, IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL, AND THROUGH DOZENS OF HIGH-LEVEL BILATERAL MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON, LONDON, PARIS AND CONFIDENTIAL

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BONN.

4. AS THE PRESIDENCY MOVES TO BRUSSELS, WE WOULD CONCLUDE THAT WHILE THE US SHOULD GO ON WORKING TO ENHANCE THE QUALITY OF THE FORMAL US-EC POLITICAL INSTRUMENT, WHAT MATTERS MOST IS THAT OVERALL US CONSULTATION WITH ITS EUROPEAN ALLIES HAS PROBABLY NEVER BEEN BETTER.

BREWSTER

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